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TRACKING TRENDS IN HEALTH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

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For more information about this brief, please contact:

Sara R. Collins, Ph.D.
Vice President, Health Care
Coverage and Access
The Commonwealth Fund
src@cmwf.org

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To Enroll or Not to Enroll? Why Many Americans Have Gained Insurance Under the Affordable Care Act While Others Have Not

Findings from the Commonwealth Fund
Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015

Sara R. Collins, Munira Gunja, Michelle M. Doty,
and Sophie Beutel

Abstract According to the most recent Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015, an estimated 25 million adults remain uninsured. To achieve the Affordable Care Act's goal of near-universal coverage, policymakers must understand why some people are enrolling in the law's marketplace plans or in Medicaid coverage and why others are not. This analysis of the survey finds that affordability—whether real or perceived—is playing a significant role in adults' choice of marketplace plans and the decision whether to enroll at all. People who have gained coverage report significantly more positive experiences shopping for health plans than do those who did not enroll. Getting personal assistance—from telephone hotlines, navigators, and insurance brokers, among other sources—appears to make a critical difference in whether people gain health insurance.

BACKGROUND

The third open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act's health insurance marketplaces begins on November 1, 2015, for coverage beginning January 2016. This will give the estimated 25 million working-age adults who still lack health insurance and are eligible for coverage the opportunity to sign up.¹ In addition, people who currently have insurance—either through the marketplaces or the individual market—will need to reenroll during this period if they want their coverage to continue through next year.

Some people, however, may choose not to enroll in coverage. To help policymakers increase the number of people with health insurance, it's important to understand why some people have enrolled while others have

not. Earlier research, based on results from the Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015, identified possible reasons why people remain uninsured, including the fact that 20 states have yet to expand eligibility for Medicaid and a general lack of knowledge among many uninsured adults about the marketplaces and the availability of financial assistance.² In this latest analysis of the survey, we gain more insight by looking at the experiences of adults who took the first steps toward gaining coverage by visiting the marketplaces but who did not ultimately enroll. Additional findings from the survey can be found in an online tool at <http://www.commonwealth-fund.org/acaTrackingSurvey/index.html>.

SURVEY FINDINGS

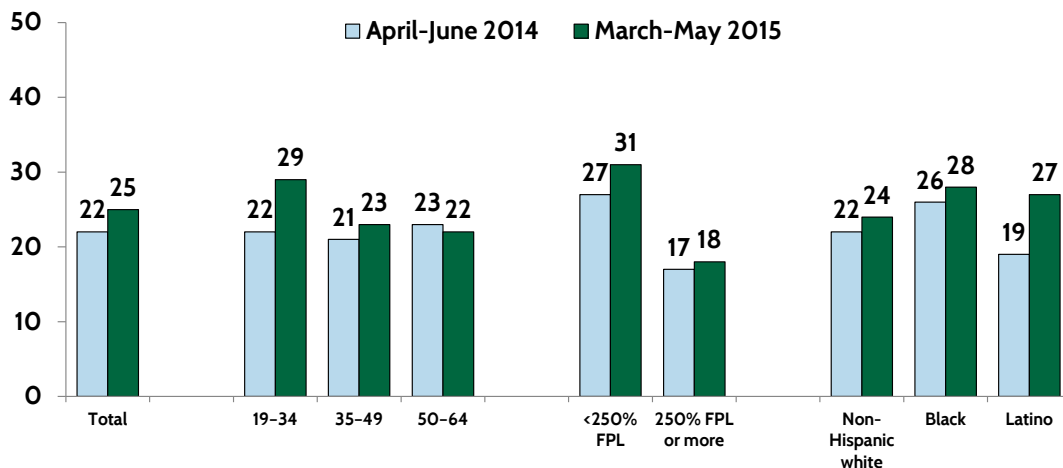
Visiting the Health Insurance Marketplaces and Shopping for Coverage

One-quarter of all U.S. working-age adults had visited a marketplace to shop for health insurance by March–May 2015; even higher rates were reported by young adults and people with low and moderate incomes (Exhibit 1). The share of Latinos who visited the marketplaces climbed significantly over the first two enrollment periods, rising from 19 percent to 27 percent.

Exhibit 1. One-Quarter of All U.S. Working-Age Adults Have Visited the Health Insurance Marketplaces

Have you gone to this new marketplace to shop for health insurance?
This could be by mail, in person, by phone, or on the Internet.

Percent of adults ages 19–64 who visited the marketplace

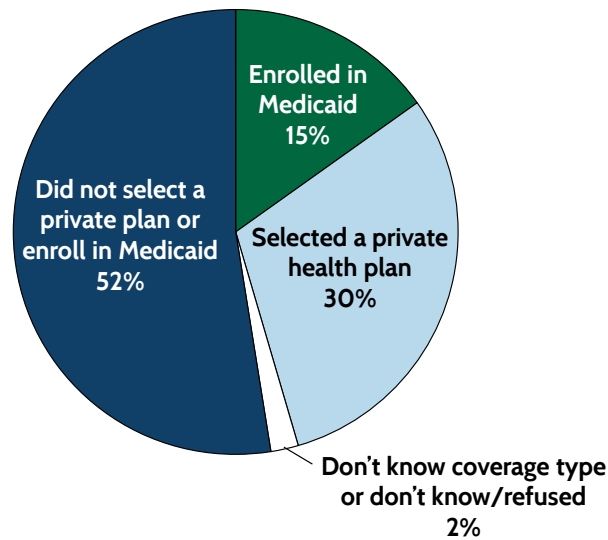


Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Surveys, April–June 2014 and March–May 2015.

Nearly half (47%) of adults who went to the marketplaces and shopped for health insurance over the past two years ultimately enrolled in plans: 30 percent said they selected a private health plan, 15 percent enrolled in Medicaid, and 2 percent either did not know their coverage type or refused to respond (Exhibit 2).³

Despite concerns that young adults might not sign up for the law's coverage options, 19-to-34-year-olds comprise more than one-third (38%) of the current combined enrollment in

Exhibit 2. Just Under Half of Adults Who Have Visited the Marketplace Enrolled in a Marketplace Plan or Medicaid



Adults ages 19–64 who went to the marketplace

Notes: Segments may not sum to 100 percent because of rounding. Analysis includes adults who visited the marketplace and are either currently enrolled or were enrolled in marketplace or Medicaid coverage in the past two years, adults who signed up for coverage through marketplace but are not sure if it is Medicaid or private coverage, and adults who do not know or refused to respond to the type of coverage. Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015.

marketplace and Medicaid plans among working-age adults (Exhibit 3). Young adults represent 31 percent of adult enrollees in the marketplaces, proportionate to their share of the adult population.⁴ Medicaid has been a critical source of new insurance coverage in this age group: 46 percent of new adult Medicaid enrollees are ages 19 to 34.

Making the Decision to Enroll

In this analysis, we examine the decision-making of people who enrolled in marketplace plans or Medicaid compared with those who did not enroll. Going forward we refer to these two groups “enrollees” and “nonenrollees.”

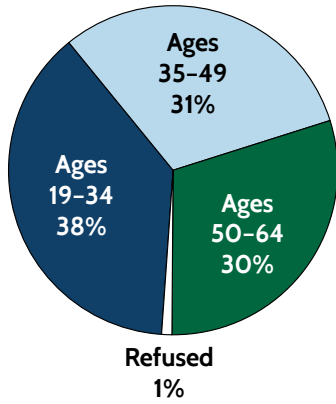
Enrollees

Premiums and out-of-pocket costs figured most prominently in decisions regarding choice of marketplace plan. Two-thirds (66%) of adults who either had enrolled in private plans through the marketplace for the first time or switched health plans in the most recent open enrollment period said that the amount of the premium (41%) or the amount of the deductible and copayments (25%) was the most important factor in their decision (Exhibit 4). A smaller share of adults (22%) said that having their preferred doctor, health clinic, or hospital included in the plan’s network was the most important reason. In a [companion issue brief](#), we examine reported premium costs and deductibles by adults with marketplace plans.

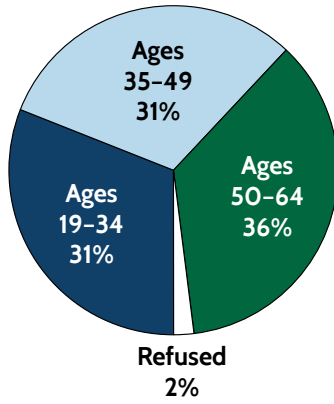
Consistent with these findings, many adults opted for a limited network of doctors and hospitals in exchange for lower premiums. Among people who either enrolled in a marketplace plan for the first time or changed plans in the most recent open enrollment period, more than half (53%) said they had the option of choosing a less expensive plan featuring fewer doctors or hospitals (Exhibit 5). Of those, more than half (54%) selected the limited-network plan.

Exhibit 3. Young Adults Comprise 31 Percent of Marketplace Enrollment and 46 Percent of Medicaid Enrollment

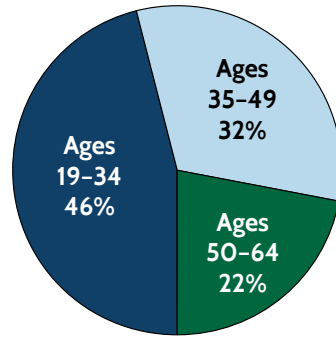
Total current marketplace and Medicaid enrollees* ages 19-64



Enrolled in a health plan through the marketplace



Enrolled in Medicaid

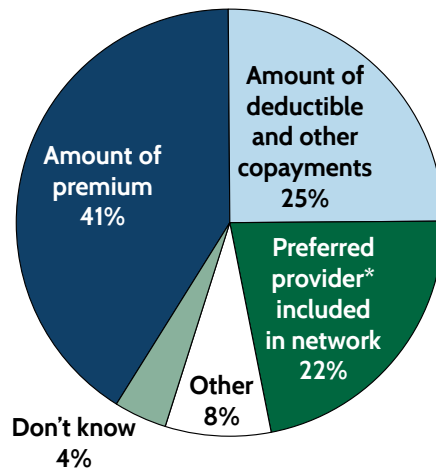


* Includes those currently enrolled in marketplace coverage, those who signed up for Medicaid through the marketplace, those who signed up for coverage through the marketplace but are not sure if it is Medicaid or private coverage, and those who have been enrolled in Medicaid for less than two years.

Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March-May 2015.

Exhibit 4. Premiums and Cost Exposure Were the Most Important Factors in Plan Selection Among Marketplace Enrollees

What was the most important factor in your decision about which plan to select?



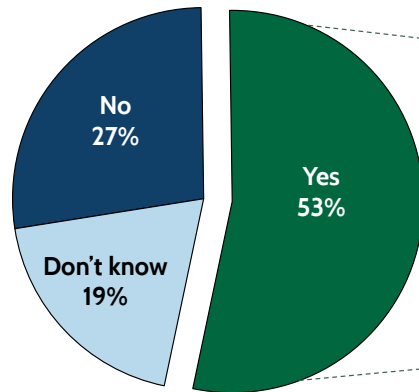
Adults ages 19-64 who have had a private plan through the marketplace for three months or less or changed plans in the 2015 open enrollment period

* Actual question wording: preferred doctor, health clinic, or hospital included in plan's network.
Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March-May 2015.

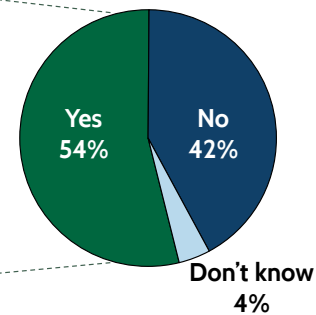
Exhibit 5. Half of Marketplace Enrollees Who Reported Having the Option to Choose a Narrow Network Policy Said They Did So

Some health plans provide more limited choices for doctors, clinics, and hospitals and charge lower premiums than plans with a larger selection of doctors and hospitals. When choosing your new plan, did you have the option of choosing a less expensive plan with fewer doctors or fewer hospitals?

Did you select the less expensive plan with fewer doctors or hospitals?



Adults ages 19–64 who have had a private plan through the marketplace for three months or less or changed plans in the 2015 open enrollment period



Adults ages 19–64 who had the option to choose less expensive plan with fewer providers

Note: Segments may not sum to 100 percent because of rounding.
Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015.

Nonenrollees

We asked adults who had visited the marketplaces but did not enroll in a marketplace plan or Medicaid about their reasons for not enrolling; respondents could select more than one response.

Half (51%) of nonenrollees said they did not enroll because they ultimately found health insurance through another source (Exhibit 6). These may have been people with changes in life circumstances such as a job loss or divorce, who shopped for insurance but ended up getting covered in another way.

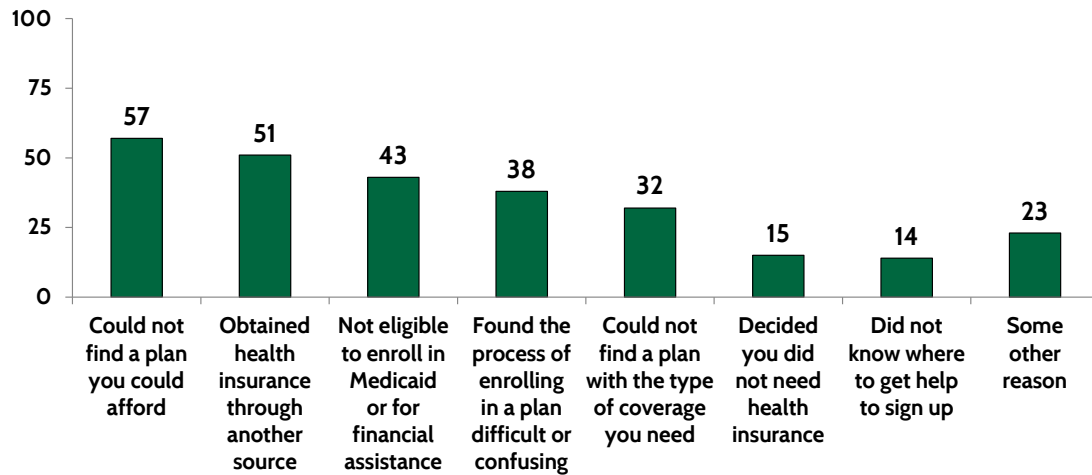
Affordability was a key reason people did not enroll in plans. More than half (57%) of adults who visited the marketplaces but did not enroll said they could not find a plan they could afford. Excluding the adults who also said they gained coverage elsewhere,⁵ the majority of those who did not enroll because they couldn't find affordable plans had lower incomes. More than half (54%) had incomes in the range that made them eligible for subsidies (i.e., from 100 percent to 400 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$11,670 to \$46,680 in annual income for an individual) (data not shown).⁶ Thirty percent had incomes under 100 percent of poverty. An estimated 26 percent (and thus nearly all of those with incomes under 100 percent of poverty) were likely in the so-called Medicaid coverage gap. That is, they were living in states that had not expanded eligibility for Medicaid at the time of the survey and had incomes under 100 percent of poverty and thereby not eligible for marketplace subsidies.⁷ About 11 percent had incomes that exceeded the threshold that made them eligible for subsidies (i.e., 400 percent of poverty).

Many adults (43%) said they did not enroll because they were not eligible for subsidized coverage or Medicaid. Again, excluding those who gained coverage elsewhere,⁸ most people who gave this reason had lower incomes: 50 percent had incomes that made them eligible for subsidies, and

Exhibit 6. Among Marketplace Visitors Who Didn't Enroll, More than Half Said They Couldn't Find an Affordable Plan

Can you tell me why you did not obtain a private health insurance plan or Medicaid coverage when you visited the marketplace? Was it because...?

Percent of adults ages 19–64 who visited the marketplace but did not select coverage



Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015.

33 percent had incomes under 100 percent of poverty (data not shown).⁹ An estimated 27 percent—most of those with incomes under 100 percent of poverty—were likely in the Medicaid coverage gap. About 14 percent had incomes above the threshold that made them eligible for subsidies.¹⁰

Other adults who did not enroll were overwhelmed by the process. About four of 10 adults (38%) who did not sign up for coverage said they found the process of enrolling difficult or confusing.¹¹

Shopping and Enrollment Experiences

We compared the shopping and enrollment experiences of enrollees and nonenrollees. In the analysis we excluded those who told us they had enrolled in another source of coverage from the group of nonenrollees.

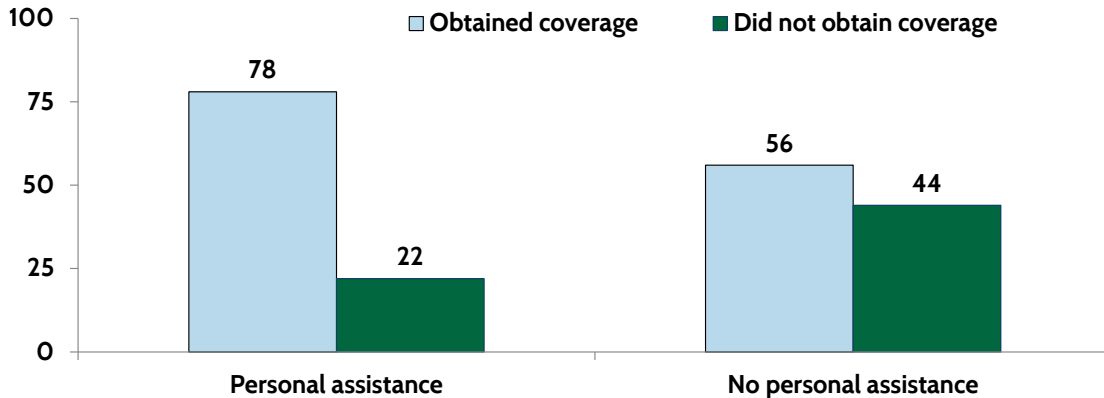
Personal Assistance

Receiving personal assistance appears to make a significant difference in whether a person signs up for coverage. People with incomes in the range that made them eligible for subsidies, those who are part of racial and ethnic minority groups, those with a high school education or less, and older adults were the most likely to report they had received personal assistance such as from a telephone hotline, insurance broker, navigator, or some other source ([Appendix Table 1](#)). When we controlled for demographic differences, 78 percent of adults who said they had received assistance enrolled in a marketplace plan or Medicaid ([Exhibit 7](#)).¹² In contrast, only 56 percent of those who did not receive personal assistance ultimately enrolled.

Exhibit 7. Nearly Eight of 10 Adults Who Received Personal Assistance Obtained Coverage

When you shopped for health insurance, did you ever receive any personal assistance to help you select an insurance plan? This could have included calling a telephone hotline or getting help from an insurance broker, navigator, or in some other way.

Percent of adults ages 19–64 who visited the marketplace



Notes: Percentages were adjusted for race, education, poverty, age and health status. "Obtained coverage" includes those who visited the marketplace and have had marketplace or Medicaid coverage for two years or less. "Did not obtain coverage" does not include those who obtained coverage through another source.

Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015.

Comparing Health Plans

Visitors to marketplace websites in most states encounter an array of health plans that differ by premium cost, copayments and deductibles, and covered providers.¹³ Health care services covered by plans should be largely the same because each must cover the same essential health benefits, as required by the law. We asked people who visited the marketplaces how difficult or easy it was to compare health plans on the basis of premium costs, benefits covered, out-of-pocket costs, and provider networks.¹⁴ Looking only at adults who had incomes above the threshold that made them eligible for marketplace plan subsidies, those who enrolled were significantly more likely than those who did not to report an easy time identifying differences among plans on those dimensions (Exhibit 8).¹⁵

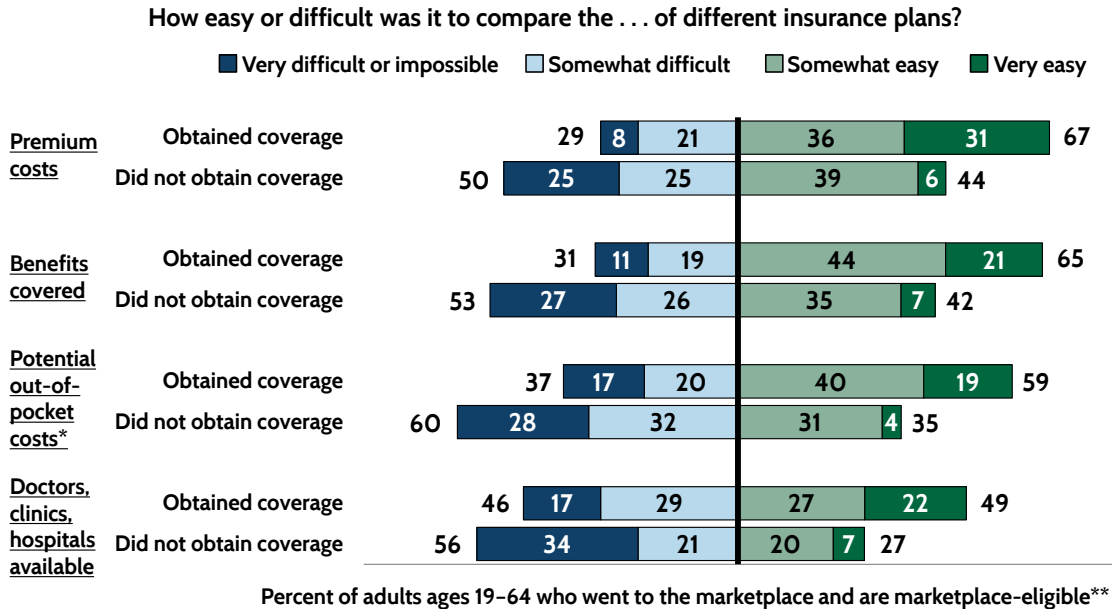
Finding an Affordable Plan

Adults who enrolled in marketplace plans were significantly more likely to report they had an easy time finding an affordable health plan than those who did not enroll (Exhibit 9). Fifty-seven percent of adults who enrolled in marketplace plans said it was very or somewhat easy to find a plan they could afford compared with 15 percent of those who did not enroll. Marketplace enrollees were also significantly more likely to report relative ease in finding plans with the type of coverage they needed than those who did not enroll (63% v. 36%).¹⁶

Overall Shopping Experience

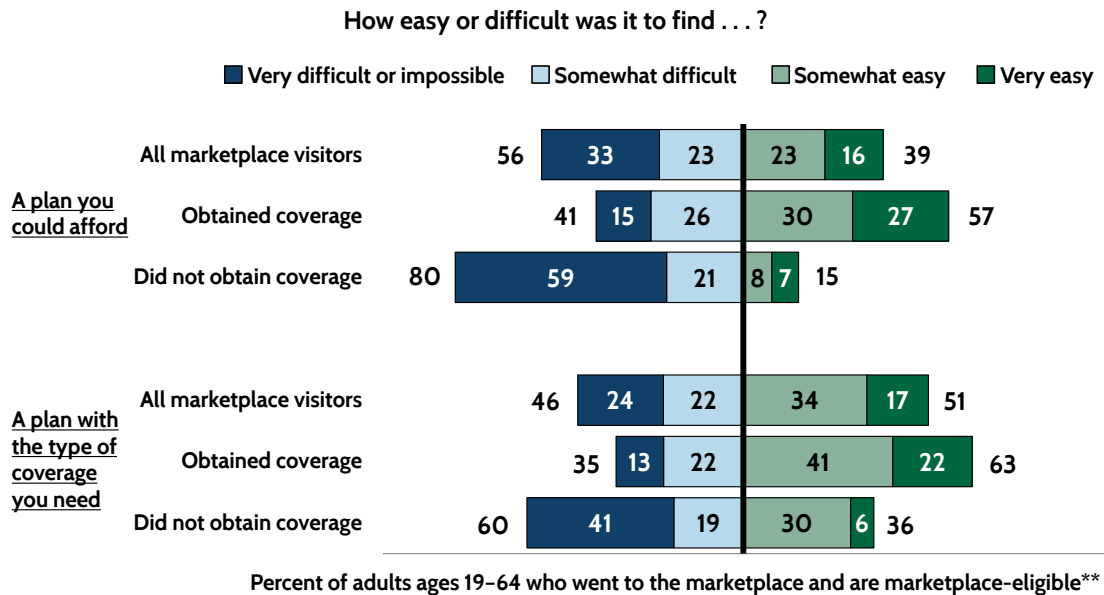
People who ultimately enrolled in either Medicaid or a marketplace plan were significantly more likely than those who did not to give high ratings to their overall experience. More than half (52%) of adults who obtained coverage rated their experience as good or excellent compared with 18 percent of those who did not enroll (Exhibit 10).¹⁷

Exhibit 8. Marketplace Visitors Who Did Not Select a Plan Had Greater Difficulty Comparing Plans Than Those Who Enrolled



Notes: Bars may not sum to 100 percent because of “don’t know” responses or refusal to respond; segments may not sum to subtotals because of rounding. * Potential out-of-pocket costs from deductibles and copayments. “Obtained coverage” includes those who visited the marketplace and have had marketplace coverage for two years or less. “Did not obtain coverage” does not include those who obtained coverage through another source. ** Marketplace-eligible includes adults in expansion states who are above 138% FPL and adults in nonexpansion states who are above 100% FPL. Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015.

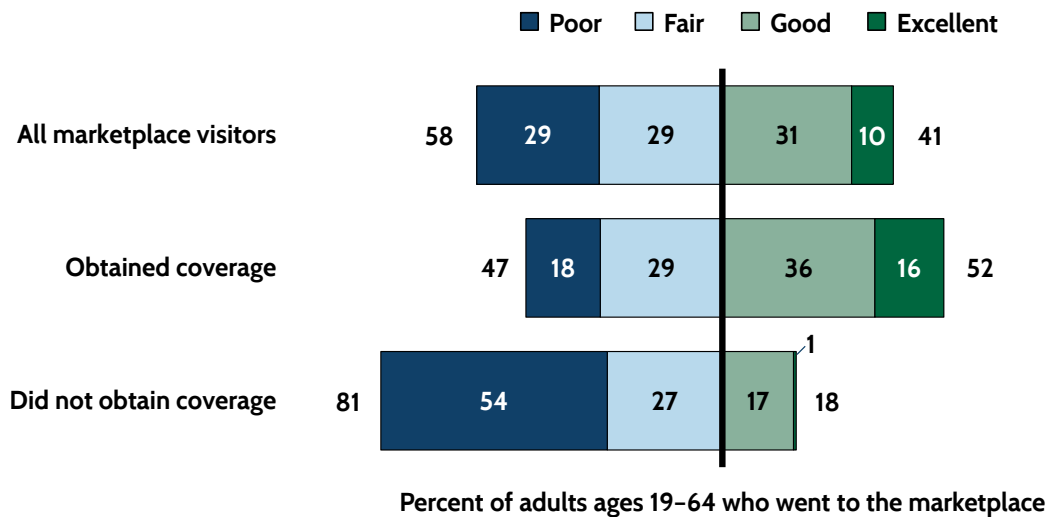
Exhibit 9. Marketplace Visitors Who Did Not Select a Plan Had Greater Difficulty Finding Affordable Plans Than Those Who Enrolled



Notes: Bars may not sum to 100 percent because of “don’t know” responses or refusal to respond; segments may not sum to subtotals because of rounding. “Obtained coverage” includes those who visited the marketplace and have had marketplace coverage for two years or less. “Did not obtain coverage” does not include those who obtained coverage through another source. ** Marketplace-eligible includes adults in expansion states who are above 138% FPL and adults in nonexpansion states who are above 100% FPL. Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015.

Exhibit 10. Marketplace Visitors Who Did Not Obtain Coverage Were More Likely to Rate Their Experience as Fair or Poor

Overall, how would you describe your experience in trying to get health insurance through the marketplace in your state?



Notes: Bars may not sum to 100 percent because of “don’t know” responses or refusal to respond; segments may not sum to subtotals because of rounding. “Obtained coverage” includes those who visited the marketplace and have had marketplace or Medicaid coverage for two years or less. “Did not obtain coverage” does not include those who obtained coverage through another source.

Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015.

CONCLUSION

The survey findings suggest strategies policymakers might pursue to continue to reduce the number of Americans who lack health insurance.

Affordability was a primary reason nearly 50 million Americans lacked health insurance before the Affordable Care Act and it clearly remains a top concern for people seeking coverage today.¹⁸ One startling finding is the fact that among those adults who said they did not enroll because they could not find an affordable plan and did not enroll through a different source, more than half (54%) had incomes that made them eligible for subsidies. It is unclear whether the subsidies are insufficient across income levels to help all those eligible enroll or whether there is a lack of clear information about the subsidy assistance and the actual net costs of insurance to potential enrollees.

The implications of this latter problem—that many people may not have the information they need to help them buy coverage on their own—are evident throughout the survey findings. For example, compared with people who enrolled, those who did not ultimately enroll had much greater difficulty comparing plans based on premium costs, potential out-of-pocket costs, provider network, and benefits covered.

The findings also suggest that getting assistance during the enrollment process may have helped people better understand the trade-offs between their health plan choices. We find that receiving personal assistance or not during the enrollment process made a significant difference in whether they signed up for coverage. Other recent research also has found that navigators and other types of assisters are powerful predictors of successful enrollment.¹⁹

Finally, the decision by 20 states not to expand eligibility for Medicaid is keeping people from gaining coverage. More than a quarter (26%) of adults who shopped for health insurance in the marketplaces and cited affordability as a reason for not enrolling likely fell into the Medicaid coverage gap. For low-income adults in these 20 states, the inability to afford health insurance remains a reality.

HOW THIS SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED

The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015, was conducted by SSRS from March 9, 2015, to May 3, 2015. The survey consisted of 16-minute telephone interviews in English or Spanish and was conducted among a random, nationally representative sample of 4,881 adults, ages 19 to 64, living in the United States. Overall, 2,203 interviews were conducted on landline telephones and 2,678 interviews on cellular phones, including 1,729 with respondents who lived in households with no landline telephone access. To view the survey questionnaire, please click [here](#).

This survey is the third in a series of Commonwealth Fund surveys to track the implementation and effects of the Affordable Care Act. The first was conducted by SSRS from July 15 to September 8, 2013, by telephone among a random, nationally representative U.S. sample of 6,132 adults ages 19 to 64. The survey had an overall margin of sampling error of ± 1.8 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

The second survey in the series was conducted by SSRS from April 9 to June 2, 2014, by telephone among a random, nationally representative U.S. sample of 4,425 adults ages 19 to 64. The survey had an overall margin of sampling error of ± 2.1 percent at the 95 percent confidence level. The sample for the April–June 2014 survey was designed to increase the likelihood of surveying respondents who were most likely eligible for new coverage options under the ACA. As such, respondents in the July–September 2013 survey who said they were uninsured or had individual coverage were asked if they could be recontacted for the April–June 2014 survey. SSRS also recontacted households reached through their omnibus survey of adults who were uninsured or had individual coverage prior to the first open enrollment period for 2014 marketplace coverage.

The March–May 2015 sample also was designed to increase the likelihood of surveying respondents who had gained coverage under the ACA. SSRS also recontacted households reached through their omnibus survey of adults between November 5, 2014, and February 1, 2015, who were uninsured, had individual coverage, had a marketplace plan, or had public insurance. These households were then recontacted for the March–May 2015 survey. All waves of the survey oversampled adults with incomes under 250 percent of poverty to further increase the likelihood of surveying respondents eligible for the coverage options as well as allow separate analyses of responses of low-income households. The measure used to designate insurance type was modified in 2015 using new follow-up questions that were asked of those adults who reported having more than one type of coverage.

The data are weighted to correct for the stratified sample design, the use of recontacted respondents from the omnibus survey, the overlapping landline and cellular phone sample frames, and disproportionate nonresponse that might bias results. The data are weighted to the U.S. 19-to-64 adult population by age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, household size, geographic division, and population density using the U.S. Census Bureau's 2013 American Community Survey and weighted by household telephone use using the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2014 National Health Interview Survey.

The resulting weighted sample is representative of the approximately 187.8 million U.S. adults ages 19 to 64. Data for income, and subsequently for federal poverty level, were imputed for cases with missing data, utilizing a standard regression imputation procedure. The survey has an overall margin of sampling error of ± 2.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. The landline portion of the main-sample survey achieved a 16.9 percent response rate and the cellular phone main-sample component achieved a 13.3 percent response rate. The overall response rate, including the recontacted sample, was 12.8 percent.

NOTES

- ¹ S. R. Collins, P. W. Rasmussen, M. M. Doty, and S. Beutel, *Americans' Experiences with Marketplace and Medicaid Coverage—Findings from the Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015* (New York: The Commonwealth Fund, June 2015); and R. A. Cohen and M. E. Martinez, *Health Insurance Coverage: Early Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, January–March 2015* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, Aug. 2015).
- ² At the time the survey was conducted, 22 states had not yet expanded eligibility for their Medicaid programs. Since the survey, two states (Alaska and Montana) have moved forward with plans to expand eligibility. Collins, Rasmussen, Doty, and Beutel, *Americans' Experiences with Marketplace and Medicaid Coverage*, 2015.
- ³ About 1 percent of adults who visited said they enrolled but did not know what type of coverage they had.
- ⁴ Collins, Rasmussen, Doty, and Beutel, *Americans' Experiences with Marketplace and Medicaid Coverage*, 2015.
- ⁵ Of the group who said they did not enroll because they couldn't find an affordable plan, 38 percent said they found coverage through a different source (data not shown). The sample size for this analysis was 290.
- ⁶ Breaking this down further, 39 percent had incomes that made them eligible for the most generous subsidies (100%–249% of poverty) and 15 percent had incomes between 250 percent and 399 percent of poverty (data not shown).
- ⁷ It is possible that some adults in this income range may have been eligible for coverage under their state's existing Medicaid program.
- ⁸ Of those who didn't think they were eligible for subsidized coverage or Medicaid, 40 percent found coverage through a different source (data not shown). The sample size for this analysis was 231.
- ⁹ Thirty-four percent had incomes between 100 percent and 249 percent of poverty and 16 percent had incomes between 250 percent and 399 percent of poverty.
- ¹⁰ Undocumented immigrants are not eligible for either the law's Medicaid expansion or marketplace plans. While we do not ask specifically about immigration status in the survey, among those who did not sign up because they said they were ineligible for financial assistance, 14 percent indicate that they were born outside of the United States. However, this measure most likely overstates the number of people who were not eligible because of their immigration status.
- ¹¹ Forty-one percent of those who found the process difficult or confusing said they found coverage through a different source (data not shown).
- ¹² Adjusted percentages were estimated based on a logistic regression model that controlled for race, education, poverty, age, and health status.
- ¹³ Choice of health plans both inside and outside the marketplaces varies both across states and within states. See K. Swartz, M. A. Hall, and T. S. Jost, *How Insurers Competed in the Affordable Care Act's First Year* (New York: The Commonwealth Fund, June 2015).
- ¹⁴ For trend data on this question from October 2013–March–April 2015, see our interactive survey data tool, <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/acaTrackingSurvey/index.html>.

- ¹⁵ Looking at the full group of visitors to the marketplace, a higher level of education did not appear to make a significant difference in whether people reported that it was very or somewhat easy to compare health plans on these four dimensions.
- ¹⁶ For trend data over 2013–2015, see our interactive survey data tool, <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/acaTrackingSurvey/index.html>.
- ¹⁷ For trend data over 2013–2015, see our interactive survey data tool, <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/acaTrackingSurvey/index.html>.
- ¹⁸ In 2013, 66 percent of the under-65 uninsured population earned less than 200 percent of poverty, or \$23,000 for an individual and \$47,000 for a family of four. Analysis of the 2014 Current Population Survey by Claudia Solis-Roman and Sherry Glied of New York University for The Commonwealth Fund.
- ¹⁹ B. Sommers, B. Maylone, K. H. Nguyen et al., “The Impact of State Policies on ACA Applications and Enrollment Among Low-Income Adults in Arkansas, Kentucky, and Texas,” *Health Affairs*, June 2015 34(6):1010–18.

Appendix Table 1. Demographics of Adults Who Visited the Marketplace and Received Personal Assistance

	Adults ages 19–64 who visited the marketplace and received personal assistance (%)
Unweighted n	623
Total	46
Race/Ethnicity	
Non-Hispanic White	39
Black	58
Latino	64
Age	
19–34	41
35–49	47
50–64	50
Poverty Status	
Below 100% poverty	44
100%–399% poverty	52
400% poverty or more	35
Education	
Less than high school	54
High school	51
College/Technical school	46
College graduate or higher	40
Health Status	
Fair/Poor health status, or any chronic condition or disability	47
No health problem	45

Source: The Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–May 2015.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Sara R. Collins, Ph.D., is vice president for Health Care Coverage and Access at The Commonwealth Fund. An economist, Dr. Collins joined the Fund in 2002 and has led the Fund's national program on health insurance since 2005. Since joining the Fund, she has led several national surveys on health insurance and authored numerous reports, issue briefs, and journal articles on health insurance coverage and policy. She has provided invited testimony before several Congressional committees and subcommittees. Prior to joining the Fund, Dr. Collins was associate director/senior research associate at the New York Academy of Medicine. Earlier in her career, she was an associate editor at *U.S. News & World Report*, a senior economist at Health Economics Research, and a senior health policy analyst in the New York City Office of the Public Advocate. Dr. Collins holds a Ph.D. in economics from George Washington University.

Munira Gunja, M.P.H., is senior research associate in the Health Care Coverage and Access program at The Commonwealth Fund. Ms. Gunja joined the Fund from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), Division of Health Care Access and Coverage, where she received the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service. Before joining ASPE, Ms. Gunja worked for the National Cancer Institute where she conducted data analysis for numerous studies featured in scientific journals. She graduated from Tulane University with a B.S. in public health and international development and an M.P.H. in epidemiology.

Michelle McEvoy Doty, Ph.D., is vice president of survey research and evaluation for The Commonwealth Fund. She has authored numerous publications on cross-national comparisons of health system performance, access to quality health care among vulnerable populations, and the extent to which lack of health insurance contributes to inequities in quality of care. Dr. Doty holds an M.P.H. and a Ph.D. in public health from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Sophie Beutel is program associate in the Health Care Coverage and Access program. In this role, she is responsible for providing daily support for the program with responsibilities ranging from daily administrative and grants management tasks to writing and research responsibilities, including tracking developments in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Prior to joining the Fund, she was a summer intern with the State of Rhode Island Department of Health. Ms. Beutel graduated from Brown University with a B.A. in Science and Society, on the Health and Medicine track.

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